SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT DECLINES LOWER INDUSTRIAL PAYROLLS

During January, seasonal influences typically play an important role in determining the direction of industrial payroll activity. Between December and January, seasonal layoffs reduced Maryland's nonagricultural payrolls by an estimated 33,600 jobs. Despite this anticipated decline, economic growth has proceeded at a steady pace over the past year. Since January, 1987, the addition of slightly more than 65,000 new jobs have boosted the statewide employment base to its current level of 2,017,200.

Seasonal employment declines were scattered throughout the industrial spectrum, lowering employment totals in both the private and public sectors. The greatest job losses occurred within the wholesale /retail trade sector where the end of Christmas buying prompted layoffs which lowered employment by slightly more than 14,000 jobs. Elsewhere in the private sector, a seasonally induced slowdown in building activity caused construction employment to drop off by nearly 7,000 jobs. Seasonal cutbacks also lowered employment in services by an estimated 5,700 jobs, with losses most pronounced in business, educational, agricultural, and amusement services.

In the public sector, semester breaks at colleges and universities were responsible, in large part, for substantial losses in government employment. The downswing in government, however, will most probably be reversed in February when school sessions resume.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

JANUARY 1988

Major Industry Grouping	January 1988	December 1987	January 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2017.2	2050.8	1951.9
Manufacturing	206.3	207.3	206.8
Durable Goods	109.4	109.5	110.8
Nondurable Goods	96.8	97.8	96.0
Nonmanufacturing	1811.0	1843.5	1745.1
Mining	1.8	1.9	1.8
Construction	146.2	153.1	137.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	93.6	94.3	90.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	517.7	531.9	477.3
Wholesale Trade	109.9	111.4	104.7
Retail Trade	407.8	420.5	372.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	125.7	126.1	111.2
Services	536.3	542.0	475.0
Total Government	389.6	394.3	388.1
Federal	128.4	129.2	134.2
State	89.2	91.5	89.1
Local	172.0	173.6	164.8

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

Seasonal movements were also reflected in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area's labor market during January. Over the month, the number of workers in the BMA declined by nearly 19,000. The full impact of this employment decline was cushioned somewhat by the withdrawal of an estimated 11,200 participants from the labor force. However, the addition of the remaining 7,772 idled workers to the unemployment rolls moved the area's jobless rate from 4.8 percent in December to 5.5 percent in January. All of the metropolitan area's local jurisdictions experienced increased unemployment, with the exception of Howard County, where the jobless rate held steady at 2.3 percent.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In the Maryland suburbs of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, the addition of approximately 6,500 workers to the region's jobless rolls caused the unemployment rate to rise to 3.5 percent in January, up from 2.8 percent in December. Throughout the region, seasonal declines in construction, trade, services, and government contributed to this increased level of joblessness. All of the suburban counties experienced increased unemployment over the month, with jobless rates ranging from a low of 2.7 percent in Montgomery County to a high of 5.9 percent in Calvert County.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In Western Maryland, seasonal employment declines lowered employment by 1,249 persons. The negative impact of this decline was compounded even further by an increase of an estimated 964 persons in the regional labor force. The net result of this scenario was an increase in the area's jobless rate from 8.0 percent in December to 10.1 percent in January. Locally, the largest numerical unemployment increase of 1,366 persons, occurred in Washington County. Garrett County, however, experienced the largest rate increase of 2.5 percentage points.

BALANCE OF STATE

Joblessness in the Balance of State Area rose by 2.5 percentage points over the month, reaching 8.3 percent in January. Seasonal employment declines over the month lowered industrial payrolls by an estimated 4,700 jobs. Unemployment rates increased in each of the region's local jurisdictions, developing a wide range from a low of 4.9 percent in Talbot County to a high of 14.6 percent in Somerset County.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--JANUARY 1988

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Jan. 1988	Dec.1987	Jan. 1988	Dec.1987	Jan. 1988	Dec.1987	Jan. 1988	Dec.1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1075.3	1101.0	709.8	729.1	84.1	85.9	127.5	132.2
Manufacturing	131.5	132.6	35.2	35.6	16.0	16.0	23.4	23.7
Durable Goods	74.7	75.2	18.4	18.4	-	-	-	-
Nondurable Goods	56.7	57.4	16.8	17.2	-	-	-	-
Nonmanufacturing	943.9	968.4	674.6	693.4	68.2	69.9	104.0	108.4
Construction	68.6	72.5	59.3	62.4	4.6	5.2	8.3	9.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	53.2	53.4	27.5	28.8	5.2	5.3	7.6	7.7
Wholesale and Retail Trade	265.6	275.5	192.3	200.4	23.3	23.8	33.9	35.0
Wholesale Trade	63.3	64.6	35.8	36.1	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	202.3	210.9	156.5	164.3	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	74.8	75.3	41.4	41.6	3.0	3.0	4.9	5.0
Services and Mining	281.1	288.2	207.9	210.2	18.2	18.2	26.9	27.6
Total Government	200.7	203.5	146.1	150.0	13.9	14.4	22.5	23.6
Federal	49.4	50.2	66.4	67.1	1.8	1.8	6.3	6.4
State	62.7	62.4	17.8	19.0	4.4	4.4	3.8	4.7
Local	88.6	90.9	61.8	63.9	7.7	8.2	12.3	12.6

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 NORTH EUTAW STREET
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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

JANUARY, 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JANUARY	DECEMBER*	JANUARY '87
MARYLAND	2,403,194	2,423,039	2,279,362	2,320,585	123,832	102,454	5.2	4.2	4.8
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,161,433	1,172,635	1,097,147	1,116,121	64,286	56,514	5.5	4.8	5.4
BALTIMORE CITY	342,091	345,418	313,825	319,253	28,266	26,165	8.3	7.6	8.4
ANNE ARUNDEL	205,917	208,575	198,305	201,735	7,612	6,840	3.7	3.3	3.6
BALTIMORE	375,559	380,492	358,555	364,756	17,004	15,736	4.5	4.1	4.5
CARROLL	59,607	59,170	56,264	57,237	3,343	1,933	5.6	3.3	5.4
HARFORD	78,065	77,490	72,905	74,166	5,160	3,324	6.6	4.3	4.9
HOWARD	85,311	86,780	83,326	84,767	1,985	2,013	2.3	2.3	2.3
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,882	14,712	13,966	14,208	916	504	6.2	3.4	4.7
D. C. AREA	944,096	952,657	911,194	926,257	32,902	26,400	3.5	2.8	3.1
CALVERT	21,432	21,344	20,160	20,494	1,272	850	5.9	4.0	4.7
CHARLES	44,292	44,732	42,700	43,406	1,592	1,326	3.6	3.0	2.9
FREDERICK	73,257	72,344	69,124	70,267	4,133	2,077	5.6	2.9	4.4
MONTGOMERY	399,790	404,493	389,021	395,452	10,769	9,041	2.7	2.2	2.4
PRINCE GEORGE'S	405,326	409,745	390,189	396,639	15,137	13,106	3.7	3.2	3.5
WESTERN MARYLAND	101,784	100,820	91,476	92,725	10,308	8,095	10.1	8.0	9.2
ALLEGANY	32,560	32,584	28,701	29,217	3,859	3,287	11.9	10.1	10.5
GARRETT	12,127	12,391	10,614	11,153	1,513	1,238	12.5	10.0	12.5
WASHINGTON	57,097	55,925	52,161	52,355	4,936	3,570	8.6	6.4	7.7
BALANCE OF STATE	195,880	196,929	179,545	185,482	16,335	11,447	8.3	5.8	7.4
CAROLINE	13,818	13,763	12,814	12,991	1,004	772	7.3	5.6	6.6
CECIL	34,321	33,276	31,024	31,648	3,297	1,628	9.6	4.9	7.7
DORCHESTER	17,269	16,558	15,699	15,565	1,570	993	9.1	6.0	9.9
KENT	8,787	8,913	8,044	8,455	743	458	8.5	5.1	8.0
ST. MARY'S	35,513	36,767	33,389	35,204	2,124	1,563	6.0	4.3	4.3
SOMERSET	10,904	10,943	9,308	9,853	1,596	1,090	14.6	10.0	14.5
TALBOT	15,774	16,644	14,995	15,965	779	679	4.9	4.1	4.3
WICOMICO	41,379	41,542	38,645	39,307	2,734	2,235	6.6	5.4	5.7
WORCESTER	18,115	18,523	15,627	16,494	2,488	2,029	13.7	11.0	13.6
[1] UNITED STATES	119,742,000	120,206,000	112,139,000	113,679,000	7,603,000	6,526,000	6.3	5.4	7.3

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
FEBRUARY, 1988

JOBLESS RATE DIPS SLIGHTLY

Maryland's labor market, which was diminished by a series of seasonal layoffs in January, gradually began to regain its equilibrium in February. Following a sizeable increase in January, the jobless rate eased down by 0.1 percentage points to register 5.1 percent in February. Last year's labor market experience showed a contrasting picture, with the jobless rate rising slightly from 4.8 percent in January to 4.9 percent in February.

The decline in Maryland's jobless rate this February was triggered by an increase in the number of working residents from 2,270,527 to 2,273,601. This employment gain of 3,074 persons was more than enough to offset a 2,260 person rise in the labor force and sufficiently strong enough to reduce the unemployment rolls by 814 persons. In February, 1987 labor market trends showed the statewide employment rolls declining by 9,297 persons. While nearly 87.0 percent of this employment decline was absorbed by the exodus of workers from the job market, slightly more than 1,200 persons elevated the unemployment rolls.

	February 1988	January 1988	February 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,396,309	2,394,049	2,357,598
Total Employment	2,273,601	2,270,527	2,242,186
Total Unemployment	122,708	123,522	115,412
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.2	4.9
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.3	7.1

The outlook for jobseekers across the nation also improved somewhat in February. Over the month, the number of American workers rose by 308,000. Meanwhile, the jobless rolls declined by 121,000 persons, signaling a drop in the unemployment rate from 6.3 percent in January to 6.1 percent in February.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLLS ADD OVER 4,000 JOBS

Total wage and salary employment increased by an estimated 4,200 jobs in February, recouping a portion of the seasonal losses experienced in January. Last year, the advance in nonagricultural payrolls was much more limited, with job gains measured at just 700 over the January-February period.

SERVICE PROVIDERS PROMPT EXPANSION

The bulk of the job gains over the month were principally the effect of usual seasonal activity. The reopening of schools following semester breaks boosted employment in both state and local government. Employment also expanded considerably in the services sector, with increases in educational services accounting for slightly more than one-third of the industry group's gains. Health services also increased noticeably during February, adding an estimated 500 jobs. The combined additions in government and services helped to offset an estimated loss of 1,500 jobs in the state's transportation, communications, and public utilities sector, the majority of which occurred in communications services.

On the goods-producing side of the economy, manufacturing payrolls were marked by a series of ups and downs. On the positive side, job gains were noted in fabricated metals, nonelectrical machinery, transportation equipment, and printing and publishing. Meanwhile, in construction, the normal seasonal retrenchment in building activity continued to pare payrolls, with losses totaling an estimated 2,800 jobs over the month.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

FEBRUARY 1988

Major Industry Grouping	February 1988	January 1988	February 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2011.3	2007.1	1952.6
Manufacturing	205.3	205.6	206.1
Durable Goods	108.7	109.0	110.0
Nondurable Goods	96.6	96.5	96.0
Nonmanufacturing	1806.0	1801.5	1746.5
Mining	1.7	1.8	1.7
Construction	143.3	146.1	135.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	90.9	92.4	90.1
Wholesale & Retail Trade	515.6	515.6	496.5
Wholesale Trade	110.4	110.3	106.5
Retail Trade	405.2	405.3	390.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	126.0	125.7	120.9
Services	537.7	534.7	511.3
Total Government	390.7	385.2	391.0
Federal	127.8	128.4	128.6
State	89.2	88.8	90.2
Local	173.7	168.0	172.2

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

In the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, the jobless rate, measured at 5.6 percent, remained unchanged over the month. Last February, the regional unemployment rate was slightly lower at 5.3 percent. On a county-by-county basis, over the month changes in jobless estimates were relatively minor. The most noticeable change occurred in Carroll County where the withdrawal of an estimated 177 persons from the labor force prompted a like decline in unemployment volume, causing the county's jobless rate to decline from 5.6 percent to 5.3 percent.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In Maryland's D.C. suburbs, a decline of 1,435 persons on the region's jobless rolls helped to lower the suburban unemployment rate by 0.2 percentage points to register 3.3 percent in February. Unemployment rates declined in each of the suburban counties, with estimates in February ranging from a low of 2.6 percent in Montgomery County to a high of 5.6 percent in Calvert County.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Regional unemployment trends were consistent with those statewide, with the exception of the Western Maryland Area. In the western counties, the addition of 671 persons to the area's jobless rolls was fueled by employment declines and compounded further by an increase in the size of the regional labor force. Overall joblessness in the region rose from 10.1 percent in January to 10.7 percent in February. Last February's unemployment increase was less pronounced, with unemployment volume rising by 421 persons and the jobless rate heading up by 0.4 percentage points.

BALANCE OF STATE

The unemployment rate in the Balance of State stabilized in February, holding at the January rate of 8.3 percent. Although the regional picture was relatively low key, some noticeable seasonal fluctuations did surface in the counties comprising the area. In Cecil County, an increase of 240 in the number of unemployed persons pushed the county's rate over the 10.0 percent mark. Unemployment also increased noticeably in Somerset County, from 14.5 percent to 15.2 percent. Despite this increase, Somerset's current unemployment rate is running slightly below last year's monthly rate of 15.5 percent.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--FEBRUARY 1988

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Feb. 1988	Jan.1988	Feb. 1988	Jan.1988	Feb. 1988	Jan.1988	Feb. 1988	Jan.1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1077.4	1075.5	715.8	712.1	83.7	83.6	128.7	128.0
Manufacturing	131.2	131.5	35.4	35.6	15.8	16.0	23.5	23.2
Durable Goods	74.3	74.6	18.4	18.5	-	-	-	-
Nondurable Goods	56.9	57.0	17.0	17.2	-	-	-	-
Nonmanufacturing	946.1	943.9	680.4	676.5	67.9	67.6	105.2	104.8
Construction	68.7	69.0	60.2	59.7	4.5	4.6	8.7	9.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	52.2	53.1	26.8	27.6	5.3	5.2	7.7	7.6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	264.8	265.5	192.3	192.2	22.9	22.9	33.7	33.8
Wholesale Trade	64.2	63.8	35.9	35.8	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	200.6	201.8	156.4	156.4	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	74.8	74.7	41.7	41.7	3.0	3.0	5.0	4.9
Services and Mining	284.2	281.1	209.7	208.8	18.2	18.1	27.1	26.9
Total Government	201.4	200.5	149.5	146.4	14.1	13.8	23.1	22.4
Federal	49.3	49.5	66.6	67.0	1.8	1.8	6.2	6.3
State	62.3	62.3	18.4	17.8	4.3	4.3	4.5	3.8
Local	89.8	88.7	64.5	61.6	8.0	7.7	12.3	12.3

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

FEBRUARY, 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY '87
MARYLAND	2,396,309	2,394,049	2,273,601	2,270,527	122,708	123,522	5.1	5.2	4.9
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,156,627	1,156,569	1,092,355	1,092,335	64,272	64,234	5.6	5.6	5.3
BALTIMORE CITY	340,462	340,881	312,455	312,449	28,007	28,432	8.2	8.3	7.8
ANNE ARUNDEL	205,188	204,957	197,439	197,435	7,749	7,522	3.8	3.7	3.6
BALTIMORE	374,522	373,914	356,989	356,983	17,533	16,931	4.7	4.5	4.5
CARROLL	59,168	59,345	56,018	56,017	3,150	3,328	5.3	5.6	5.7
HARFORD	77,568	77,719	72,587	72,586	4,981	5,133	6.4	6.6	5.3
HOWARD	84,947	84,951	82,962	82,960	1,985	1,991	2.3	2.3	2.3
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,772	14,800	13,905	13,905	867	895	5.9	6.0	5.9
D. C. AREA	943,033	941,231	911,628	908,391	31,405	32,840	3.3	3.5	3.2
CALVERT	21,303	21,394	20,170	20,098	1,193	1,296	5.6	6.1	5.4
CHARLES	44,268	44,155	42,720	42,568	1,548	1,587	3.5	3.6	3.0
FREDERICK	72,849	73,064	69,157	68,912	3,692	4,152	5.1	5.7	5.4
MONTGOMERY	399,551	398,564	389,206	387,824	10,345	10,740	2.6	2.7	2.5
PRINCE GEORGE'S	405,002	404,054	390,375	388,989	14,627	15,065	3.6	3.7	3.4
WESTERN MARYLAND	101,255	100,784	90,192	90,563	10,863	10,221	10.7	10.1	9.6
ALLEGANY	32,211	32,268	28,368	28,429	3,843	3,839	11.9	11.9	11.3
GARRETT	12,041	11,998	10,468	10,506	1,573	1,492	13.1	12.4	12.6
WASHINGTON	57,003	56,518	51,556	51,628	5,447	4,890	9.6	8.7	8.0
BALANCE OF STATE	195,394	195,465	179,226	179,237	16,168	16,228	8.3	8.3	8.3
CAROLINE	13,650	13,787	12,682	12,802	968	985	7.1	7.1	8.2
CECIL	34,461	34,135	30,951	30,865	3,510	3,270	10.2	9.6	8.6
DORCHESTER	17,250	17,244	15,617	15,688	1,633	1,556	9.5	9.0	12.9
KENT	8,626	8,770	7,932	8,035	694	735	8.0	8.4	9.0
ST. MARY'S	35,138	35,443	33,160	33,330	1,978	2,113	5.6	6.0	4.5
SOMERSET	10,891	10,876	9,240	9,294	1,651	1,582	15.2	14.5	15.5
TALBOT	16,333	15,766	15,543	14,988	790	778	4.8	4.9	5.3
WICOMICO	40,743	41,445	38,235	38,620	2,508	2,725	6.2	6.6	6.3
WORCESTER	18,302	18,099	15,866	15,615	2,436	2,484	13.3	13.7	11.6
[1] UNITED STATES	121,678,000	121,491,000	114,196,000	113,888,000	7,482,000	7,603,000	6.1	6.3	7.1

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

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LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

A Monthly Report on the Dynamics of the Labor Market in Maryland

MARCH 1988

Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

J. Randall Evans
Secretary

William Donald Schaefer
Governor

LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS
MARCH, 1988

LABOR MARKET MAKES SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS

The labor market status of Maryland residents improved significantly between February and March. As warming weather enhanced job opportunities, the statewide jobless rate took a favorable turn, declining by 0.5 percentage points over the month to register 4.6 percent in March. Last year, a decline of 0.2 percentage points left March with a slightly higher jobless estimate of 4.7 percent. The current rate of 4.6 percent is the lowest March unemployment rate in almost a decade and a half.

Both the labor force and employment levels hit new records for the month of March. Jobseekers, encouraged by the onset of springtime hiring activity, boosted the statewide labor force to a level of 2,405,073 in March, up from 2,398,903 in February. The success rate of both new entrants and previously idled jobseekers in finding employment was clearly evident as unemployment fell by 11,309 persons while employment expanded by 17,479 to total 2,293,753.

Between March of this year and March of last year, slightly more than 21,400 jobseekers entered the statewide labor force, with nearly 98.0 percent of these new entrants joining the ranks of the employed.

	March 1988	February 1988	March 1987
Civilian Labor Force	2,405,073	2,398,903	2,383,646
Total Employment	2,293,753	2,276,274	2,272,770
Total Unemployment	111,320	122,629	110,876
Unemployment Rate	4.6	5.1	4.7
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.2	6.9

On average, Maryland jobseekers fared slightly better than those nationally during March. Although the number of American workers increased over the month, the rate of employment expansion in Maryland surpassed the national gain by a ratio of 2 to 1. National unemployment did decline albeit proportionately more slowly than in Maryland. The end result was a national unemployment rate of 5.9 percent in March, down from 6.2 percent in February.

SEASONAL HIRING BOOSTS PAYROLLS

In March, Maryland's nonagricultural wage and salary employment hit a new record for that month of the year, totaling 2,026,000 jobs. Employment this March exceeded last March's total by 44,000 jobs. However, springtime expansion this year has begun at a much slower pace than last year. After declining by 36,200 jobs between December, 1987 and February, 1988, employment registered a seasonal increase of 11,400 jobs in March. Seasonal hiring last March boosted employment by 29,400 jobs, following a wintertime loss of a much higher 50,200 jobs.

Job gains during March were shared by both the private and public sector. Within the private sector, construction and services were the leading growth contributors. Employment gains in these two sectors, when combined, were responsible for nearly two-thirds of the total job generation during March. In construction, special trade contractors provided the largest number of opportunities and, in services, agribusiness, amusement/recreation, health, and business services were the big gainers. Elsewhere in the private sector, seasonal hiring activity was also strong in eating and drinking places, auto dealers and service stations, and in trade establishments selling building materials, garden supplies, and hardware. Meanwhile, the employment picture in the manufacturing industry was clouded by the onset of a labor dispute which idled more than 300 workers in the durable goods sector.Within the public sector, continuing recall activity at public colleges and universities, community colleges, and local boards of education exerted the primary influence on state and local government payrolls by adding an estimated 3,900 jobs.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

MARCH 1988

Major Industry Grouping	March 1988	February 1988	March 1987
Total Nonagricultural Employment	2026.0	2014.6	1982.3
Manufacturing	205.4	205.6	207.3
Durable Goods	108.5	108.9	110.6
Nondurable Goods	96.9	96.7	96.7
Nonmanufacturing	1820.6	1809.0	1775.0
Mining	1.7	1.7	1.7
Construction	149.3	144.9	140.7
Transportation & Public Utilities	91.1	91.1	90.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	516.2	515.7	503.1
Wholesale Trade	110.5	110.5	107.8
Retail Trade	405.7	405.2	395.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	125.8	125.9	121.9
Services	540.5	537.4	520.4
Total Government	396.0	392.3	396.7
Federal	127.9	128.1	129.2
State	92.5	90.9	92.3
Local	175.6	173.3	175.2

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

In the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, an increase of an estimated 7,700 jobs on the region's industrial payrolls helped to reduce the area's unemployment rolls by 5,741 persons, easing the jobless rate down from 5.6 percent in February to 5.1 percent in March. All of the metropolitan area's local jurisdictions shared in this decline. Locally, unemployment rates in March ranged from a low of 2.3 percent in Howard County to a high of 7.7 percent in Baltimore City. Throughout the region, jobs multiplied as seasonal hiring got underway in construction, eating and drinking places, amusement and recreation services, and agribusiness.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

In Maryland's D.C. suburbs, a decline of 0.2 percentage points over the month lowered the regional unemployment rate to 3.1 percent in March--a rate identical to that recorded in March, 1987. In both Calvert and Frederick counties, unemployment rates dropped by a full percentage point. Increased hiring activity boosted employment in each of the region's major industrial sectors. The largest gains occurred in construction, followed by public education and services.

WESTERN MARYLAND

At 9.1 percent, Western Maryland had the highest unemployment rate of the state's four regions. However, the area's jobless rate did drop significantly from February's estimate of 10.8 percent. Although employment in the region did increase by 344 persons over the month, the withdrawal of nearly 1,500 persons from the job market was the primary factor in reducing the region's jobless rate. Nearly 95.0 percent of the regional labor force decline occurred in Washington County where the jobless rate dropped from 9.5 percent in February to 7.4 percent in March.

BALANCE OF STATE

Unemployment in the Balance of State receded from 7.9 percent in February to 6.9 percent in March. All of the shore counties, with the exception of Wicomico where unemployment held steady at 6.1 percent, experienced reduced levels of joblessness. In both Dorchester and Talbot Counties, unemployment declines, however, were the direct result of labor force withdrawal rather than increasing employment. Recalls in education and seasonal hiring in construction, eating and drinking places and services contributed to the improvement in regional labor market conditions.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT[1] BY INDUSTRY - BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)
BY REGION--MARCH 1988

Major Industry Grouping	Baltimore Metropolitan Area		Maryland Portion D.C. Suburbs		Western Maryland		Balance of State	
	Mar. 1988	Feb.1988	Mar. 1988	Feb.1988	Mar. 1988	Feb.1988	Mar. 1988	Feb.1988
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1084.8	1077.1	720.5	714.8	84.1	83.8	129.8	129.0
Manufacturing	131.1	131.3	35.8	35.5	15.8	15.8	23.5	23.9
Durable Goods	74.1	74.4	18.6	18.4	-	-	-	-
Nondurable Goods	57.0	56.9	17.2	17.1	-	-	-	-
Nonmanufacturing	953.7	945.8	684.7	679.3	68.3	68.0	106.3	105.1
Construction	70.8	68.5	61.8	59.7	4.6	4.7	9.6	9.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	52.4	52.0	26.9	26.7	5.3	5.2	7.5	7.6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	265.9	264.9	192.3	192.0	23.0	23.0	33.5	33.5
Wholesale Trade	64.2	64.2	35.9	35.8	-	-	-	-
Retail Trade	201.7	200.7	156.4	156.2	-	-	-	-
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	74.5	74.5	41.7	41.7	2.9	2.9	5.0	4.9
Services and Mining	286.6	284.3	211.0	209.6	18.3	18.1	27.4	27.0
Total Government	203.5	201.6	151.0	149.6	14.2	14.1	23.3	23.1
Federal	49.2	49.3	66.8	66.8	1.8	1.8	6.2	6.3
State	62.9	62.4	19.3	18.5	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.5
Local	91.4	89.9	64.9	64.3	8.1	8.0	12.4	12.3

[1]The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request.
Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
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STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

MARCH 1988

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH	FEBRUARY*	MARCH '87
MARYLAND	2,405,073	2,398,903	2,293,753	2,276,274	111,320	122,629	4.6	5.1	4.7
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,160,949	1,158,200	1,102,005	1,093,515	58,944	64,685	5.1	5.6	5.1
BALTIMORE CITY	341,428	341,073	315,215	312,786	26,213	28,287	7.7	8.3	7.7
ANNE ARUNDEL	206,304	205,410	199,183	197,649	7,121	7,761	3.5	3.8	3.5
BALTIMORE	376,470	374,967	360,143	357,368	16,327	17,599	4.3	4.7	4.4
CARROLL	58,934	59,225	56,513	56,078	2,421	3,147	4.1	5.3	5.1
HARFORD	77,352	77,680	73,228	72,664	4,124	5,016	5.3	6.5	4.7
HOWARD	85,707	85,064	83,695	83,050	2,012	2,014	2.3	2.4	2.3
QUEEN ANNE'S	14,753	14,782	14,028	13,920	725	862	4.9	5.8	4.9
D. C. AREA	949,913	943,963	920,097	912,429	29,816	31,534	3.1	3.3	3.1
CALVERT	21,362	21,402	20,357	20,188	1,005	1,214	4.7	5.7	4.8
CHARLES	44,620	44,310	43,117	42,758	1,503	1,552	3.4	3.5	3.2
FREDERICK	72,712	72,897	69,800	69,218	2,912	3,679	4.0	5.0	4.6
MONTGOMERY	402,913	400,002	392,822	389,548	10,091	10,454	2.5	2.6	2.4
PRINCE GEORGE'S	408,306	405,353	394,001	390,718	14,305	14,635	3.5	3.6	3.5
WESTERN MARYLAND	100,071	101,531	90,950	90,606	9,121	10,925	9.1	10.8	8.8
ALLEGANY	32,255	32,285	28,715	28,428	3,540	3,857	11.0	11.9	10.5
GARRETT	12,067	12,117	10,590	10,496	1,477	1,621	12.2	13.4	12.2
WASHINGTON	55,749	57,129	51,645	51,682	4,104	5,447	7.4	9.5	7.0
BALANCE OF STATE	194,142	195,208	180,702	179,723	13,440	15,485	6.9	7.9	7.3
CAROLINE	13,709	13,702	12,913	12,728	796	974	5.8	7.1	7.1
CECIL	33,500	33,766	31,228	30,933	2,272	2,833	6.8	8.4	7.7
DORCHESTER	17,066	17,298	15,635	15,674	1,431	1,624	8.4	9.4	11.1
KENT	8,723	8,640	8,236	7,959	487	681	5.6	7.9	7.1
ST. MARY'S	35,363	35,267	33,463	33,262	1,900	2,005	5.4	5.7	4.6
SOMERSET	10,845	10,915	9,320	9,268	1,525	1,647	14.1	15.1	14.0
TALBOT	15,979	16,399	15,434	15,601	545	798	3.4	4.9	4.1
WICOMICO	41,039	40,875	38,530	38,375	2,509	2,500	6.1	6.1	5.4
WORCESTER	17,918	18,346	15,943	15,923	1,975	2,423	11.0	13.2	11.7
[1] UNITED STATES	119,957,000	119,942,000	112,867,000	112,460,000	7,090,000	7,482,000	5.9	6.2	6.9

*Estimates for the state are revised.

[1] Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.